

First Selectman Gayle Weinstein has announced there will be a change in the voting procedures at the ATBM (Annual Town Budget Meeting) scheduled for this Wednesday, April 23, at Weston High School.

Instead of voting on each item in the town operating budget line by line, voters will be asked to approve budget items by category.

For example, voters will be asked to approve \$6,359,599 for General Government, rather than by each individual line: Administration & Finance, General Administration, Information Systems, Probate Court, Elections/Registrars, Board of Finance, Assessor, Tax Collection, Legal Counsel, Town Clerk, and Land Use Department.

The purpose of voting on the items by categories rather than by line items is to shorten the length of the meeting which can often run long as the moderator announces each line item and a vote is then taken for each individual line. "We're trying to make the ATBM not so long and boring so more people will attend," Ms. Weinstein said.

If there is a quorum present, voters will still be able to make a motion to reduce an individual line in the budget.

A quorum of 121 voters, 2% of the town's qualified voters, need to be present at the ATBM in order to reduce any individual appropriation less than the amount recommended by the Board of Finance.

Last year, 136 qualified voters were needed for a quorum, but only 85 were present so the quorum requirement to make reductions in the budget was not met.

Categories in the town operating budget to be voted on at the ATBM are:

General Government, \$6,359,599

Public Safety, \$2,560,772

Public Works, \$1,781,736

Sanitation, Health, Environment, \$349,241

Human Resources and Development, \$663,313

Parks and Recreation, \$386,732

Results of the ATBM will be posted online following the meeting, with a full story in next week's issue of *The Weston Forum*.

-From the Weston Forum